

C. Remarks

The claims are 1-20, with claims 1, 14, and 18 being independent. Claims 18-20 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 2, 8, and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to better define the present invention. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in the substitute specification at page 7, lines 21-22, and page 19, lines 1-6. Claims 11 and 13 have been amended to improve their form. Claim 16 has been amended to correct its dependency. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is expressly requested.

Claims 8, 9, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite.

Because claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled and claim 16 has been amended to correct its dependency, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0130311 A1 (Leiber).

Because claim 2 has been cancelled, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,231,744 B1 (Ying). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Ying. Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Ying in view of U.S.

Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0147801 A1 (Someya) and Glass Science (Doremus). Claims 12 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from Ying and, or in view of, Someya. The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Ying is directed to nanowire arrays. While this reference discloses a porous body matrix, this matrix is composed of an oxide. To the contrary, as recited in claim 1, the porous body in the present invention is composed mainly of silicon or germanium. Applicants respectfully submit that Ying does not disclose or suggest such a structure. Also, as the Examiner recognized, Ying fails to disclose or suggest a eutectic between components as recited in claim 14.

Someya is directed to a process for producing aligned carbon nanotube films. This reference, however, does not disclose or suggest eutectic components as presently claimed. Applicants respectfully submit that silica is not eutectic with alumina.

Doremus cannot cure the deficiencies of Ying or Someya. This reference was cited for the disclosure related to silica and germania glass. Doremus does not disclose or suggest the above-discussed features of the presently claimed invention, which are absent in Ying and Someya.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the presently claimed elements. Thus, the outstanding rejections should be withdrawn and the claims should be allowed.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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